

# BUDZINE

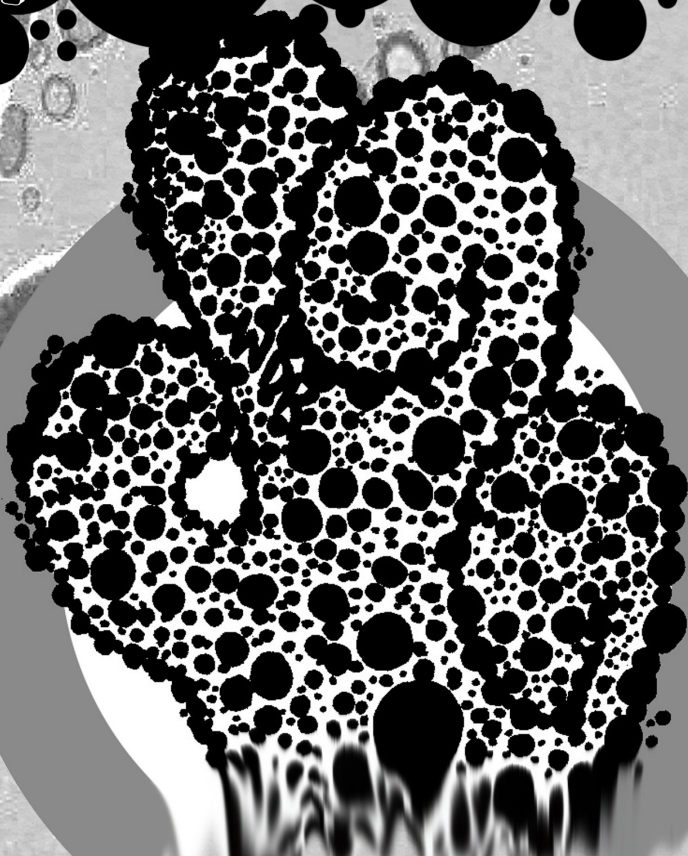
# HAND IT OVER #2

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**INTERVIEWS:**  
**TIM MCEWEN.**  
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**IMAGES IN INTERVIEW SUPPLIED BY THEM.**

**COMIC BY WILL KING**



**WOULD HAVING NO PROSPECTS HURT YOUR ROMANTIC PROSPECTS? LETS HAVE A GEEZ AT HOW THIS GUY GOES AT IT.**

# **FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE.**

**A SHORT STORY OF ROMANCE  
AND POVERTY BY WILL KING.**

**LOOK MATE,  
SORRY TO SAY BUT  
SOMEONE HAD TO GET  
SACKED AND ITS YOU.  
...CYA BUDDY.**



**TEN YEARS....  
TEN BLOODY YEARS AND  
THEY SACK ME AT THE  
DROP OF A HAT! UN -  
BLOODY - BELIEVABLE**

**CHRIST ON A BIKE!! WHAT THE  
BLOODY HELL AM I GUNNA DO  
NOW? HOW WILL I LIVE? I DONT  
HAVE ANY SAVINGS, ANY FAMILY,  
AND NOW NO INCOME..**





**NEXT STOP: AT CENTRELINK..**

**NEXT!**

**HI, MAVIS IS IT?  
I'VE JUST LOST MY  
JOB AND WOULD LIKE TO  
GET ON NEWSTART.**

**YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT 8  
WEEKS FROM YOUR LAST  
PAY DAY.**

**8 WEEKS?! I CANT..**

**CALM  
DOWN  
MATE..**

**SHOOSH!!**

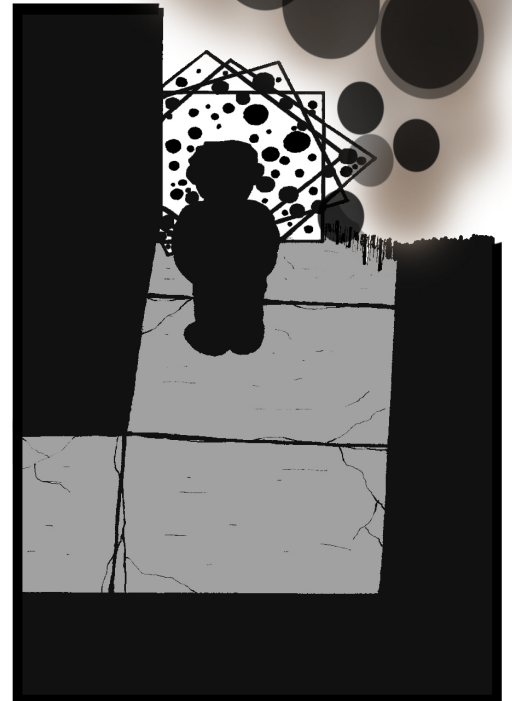


**A FLIRTATIOUS  
ROMANTIC GESTURE?  
MY LIFE IS SLOWLY  
CRUMBLING TO PIECES,  
AND THIS WOMAN  
BATS HER EYELID IN  
MY DIRECTION?!**

**SADLY, IN THIS CAPITALIST  
SOCIETY I HAVE NOTHING  
TO OFFER A WOMAN...**

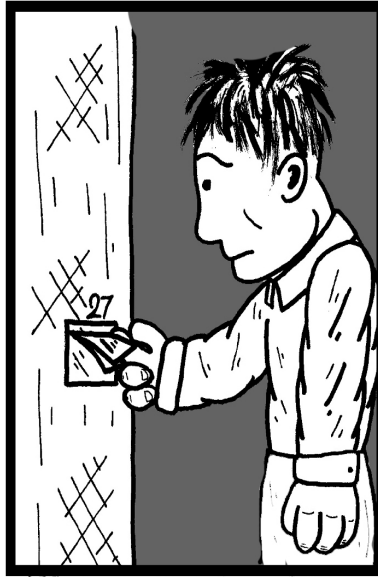
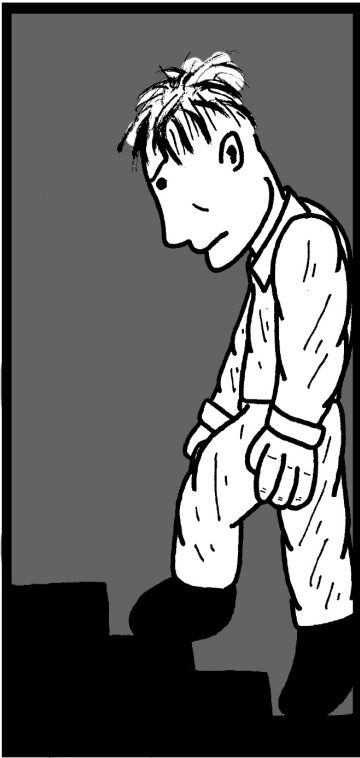


**...EXCEPT MY EVER BURNING LOVE AND  
DEVOTION, BUT WHAT NEW AGE  
WOMAN STILL WANTS THAT?**

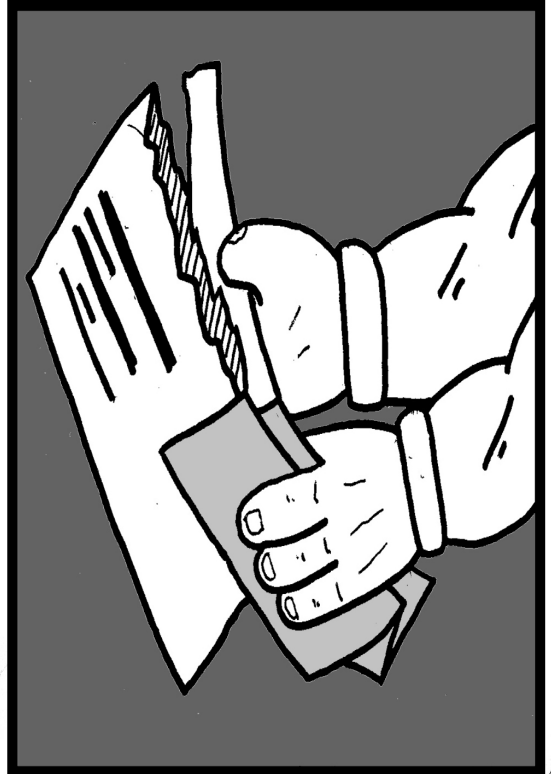




**ANOTHER DAY,  
ANOTHER BILL.**

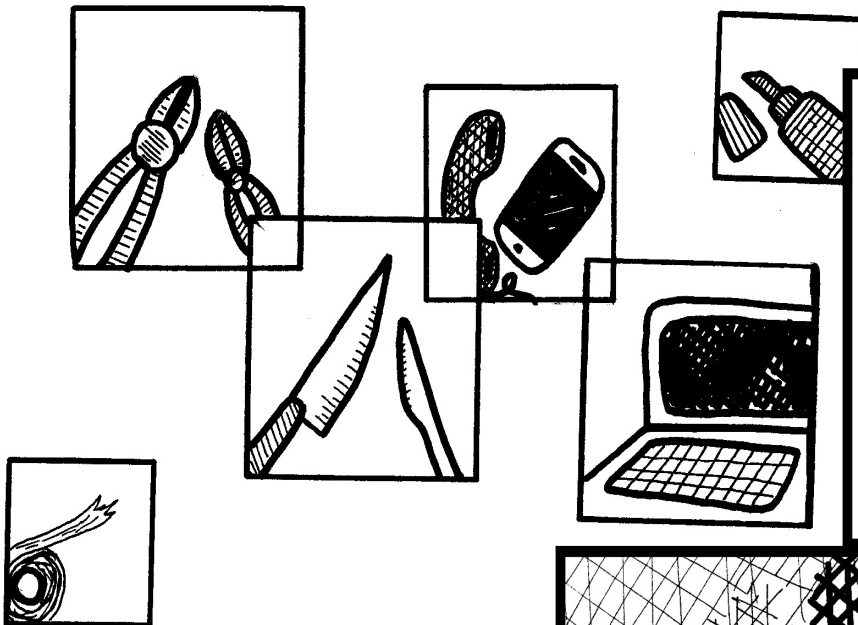
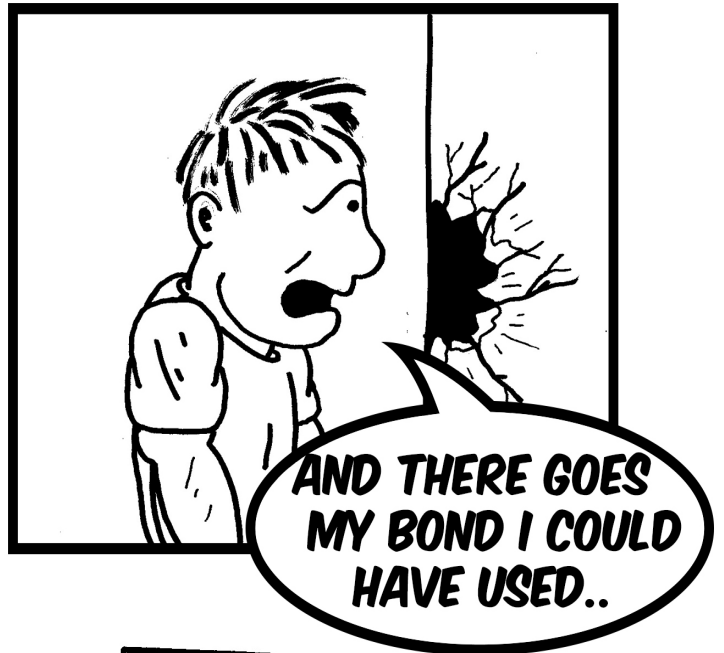


**I'LL BE LUCKY TO  
SURVIVE 8 WEEKS.**



dear sir,  
due to increased  
property demand in  
this area, your rent  
will rise by 58%  
your total  
to \$1450

**DAMN IT!!**



**SO NOW I SIT HERE IN AN  
EMPTY ROOM OWNING ONLY  
2 SETS OF CLOTHES,  
WAITING UNTIL THE NEXT  
FORTNIGHT OF RENT IS  
DUE AND IM SURE  
TO BE EVICTED.**

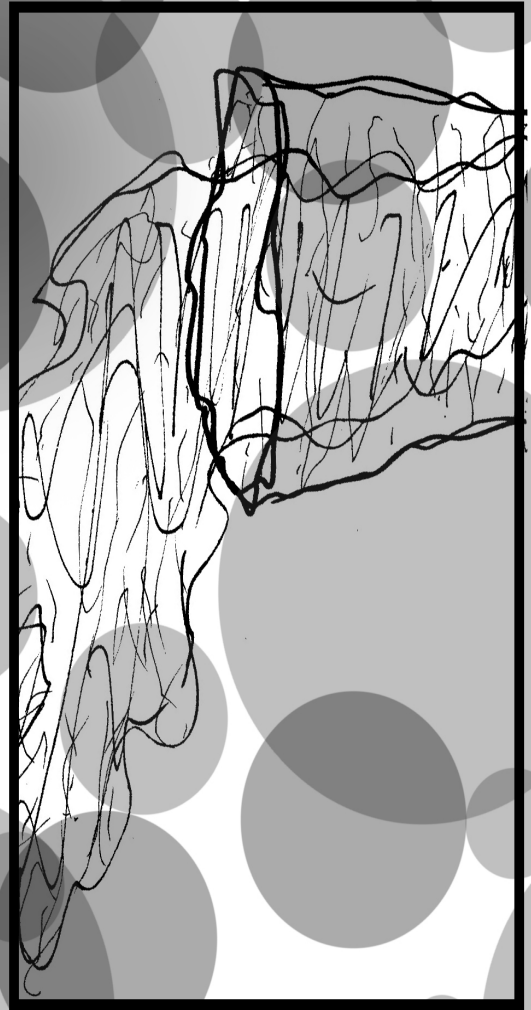
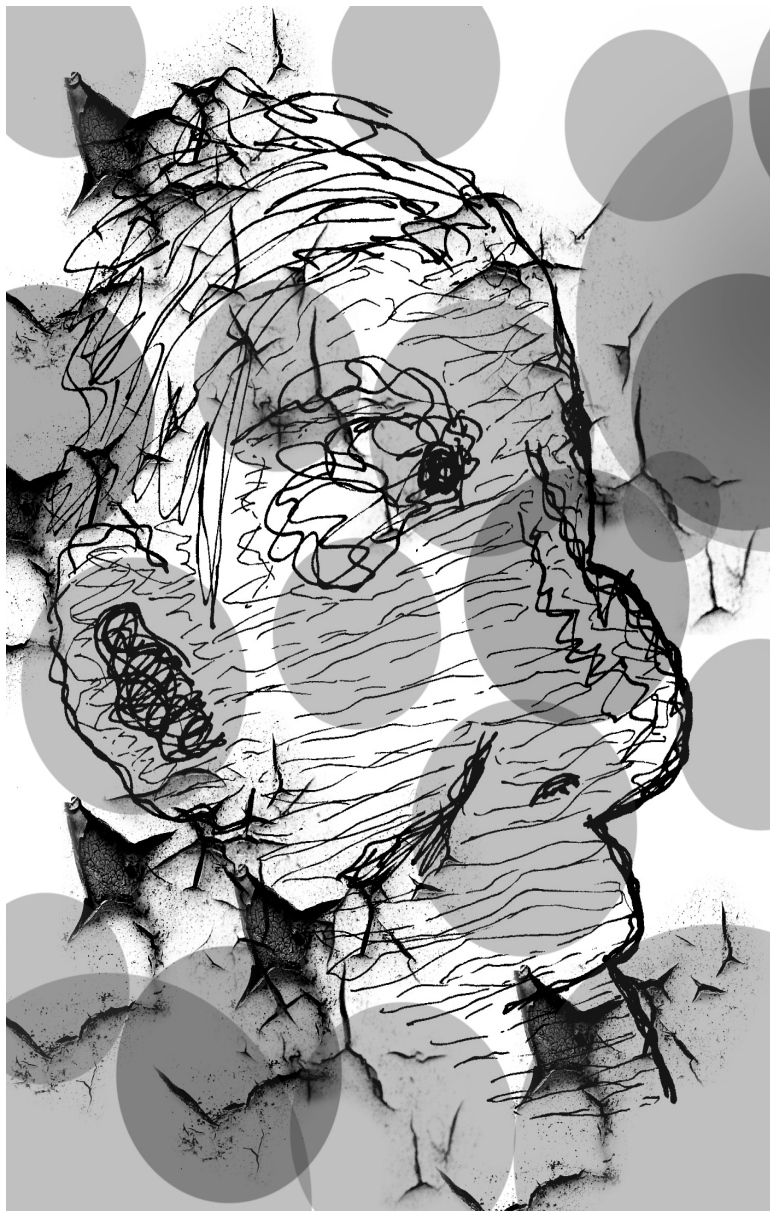




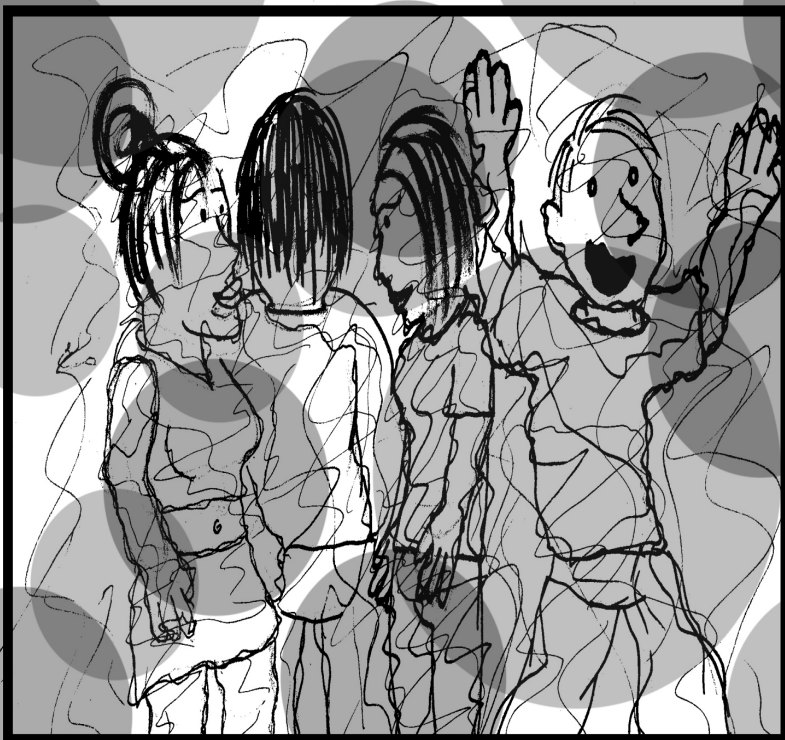


**AFTER DRINKING MOST OF  
MY MONEY AWAY TO NUMB  
THE PAIN OF MY LOOMING  
EVICTION, I THOUGHT TO  
MYSELF, MAYBE THERES  
SOMETHING BETTER HAPPENING  
DOWN AT THE CLUB.**





**I CANT REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT...**







# **INTERVIEW: TIM MCEWEN**

**WHAT WAS THE FIRST COMIC THAT GAINED YOUR INTEREST?**

**I THINK IT WAS PROBABLY AN ANCIENT AUSTRALIAN  
BLACK & WHITE REPRINT OF AVENGERS #3.  
I STILL OWN IT! EVERY COLOURED-IN-WITH-TEXTAS-PAGE  
OF IT.**

**WHO INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE COMICS?**

**LOTS OF PEOPLE DO! IT'S HARD TO NAIL IT DOWN,  
AND TOO LONG A LIST TO WRITE.  
TO GIVE YOU SOME SORT OF ANSWER THOUGH,  
RIGHT NOW I'M (RE)READING  
CEREBUS BY DAVE SIM, AND MATE! IT'S JUST INCREDIBLE!  
COMPLETE MASTERY OF THE FORM.  
MAKES ME VERY ITCHY TO GET TO WORK MYSELF.**

**WHATS YOUR FAVOURITE THING YOU HAVE WORKED ON  
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING COMICS?**

**I'VE BEEN MAKING COMICS FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.  
MY FIRST FORMAL, PRINTED WORK WAS PUBLISHED IN 1984.  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY FAVOURITE IS THOUGH.  
OBVIOUSLY GREENER PASTURES  
AS A WHOLE IS STILL MY FAVOURITE THING,  
BUT A MORE SPECIFIC THING THAN THAT? I DON'T KNOW.**

**I REALLY HAD GREAT FUN DOING THE "I'M AN OLD MAN, GET OFF MY LAWN, MUSIC WAS BETTER IN MY DAY" FOUR PAGE RANT THAT WAS PRINTED IN SPLIT #1 WHICH WAS TITLED "YOUR MUSIC SUX, MAN!". IN IT COLIN AND TREVOR (FROM GREENER PASTURES) GO ON ABOUT HOW GREAT AND IMPORTANT 80S MUSIC WAS. I DID SOME FUN CARTOONING IN THAT ONE, DRESSING THE CHARACTERS UP AS 80S AUSTRALIAN MUSIC ICONS LIKE THE DIVINYLS AND THE ANGELS.**

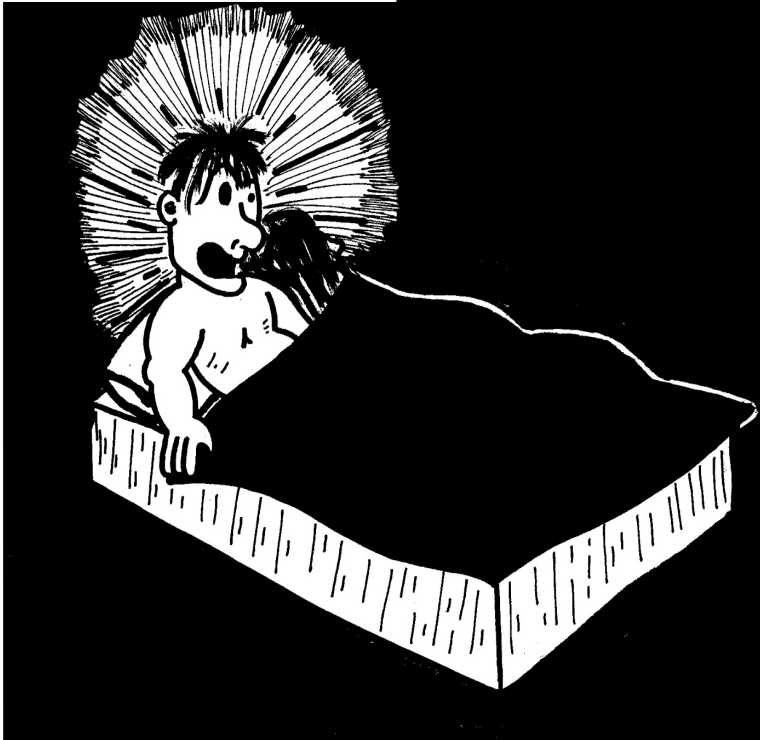
**WHAT DO YOU FEEL HAS BEEN THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN YOUR CAREER?**

**HAHA – "CAREER"?!? I GUESS IT WOULD BE ONE OZCON (WHICH WAS A COMICS CONVENTION RUN BY KINGS COMICS IN THE 90S) WHERE WE HAD A CROWD AT OUR BOOTH FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND, THREE PEOPLE DEEP, WANTING TO BUY OUR COMICS AND GET SKETCHES. HECTIC AND AWESOME WEEKEND!**

**WHO ARE AUSTRALIAN COMIC WRITERS/ARTISTS THAT YOU APPRECIATE?**

**GARY CHALONER IS NOT ONLY ONE OF MY FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN COMICS CREATORS, BUT HE'S ONE OF MY ALL-TIME FAVOURITE COMICS CREATORS EVER. BOBBY N. IS BRILLIANT – I WISH HE'D MAKE MORE COMICS. TRUDY COOPER IS AMAZING, AND I WISH SHE'D MAKE MORE COMIC BOOK COMICS RATHER THAN WEB STRIPS. ANDREW FULTON ALWAYS DELIGHTS AND AMAZES. BEN SEA (BEN CONSTANTINE) AS WELL. I WISH SAMANTHA CALCRAFT (MAMATH) WOULD MAKE MORE FULL-ON COMICS AS WELL. AMEI ZHAO'S WORK IS BEAUTIFUL. CAROLYN GAN'S EQUALLY SO. YET NEITHER OF THEM MAKE ENOUGH PRINT COMICS EITHER.**

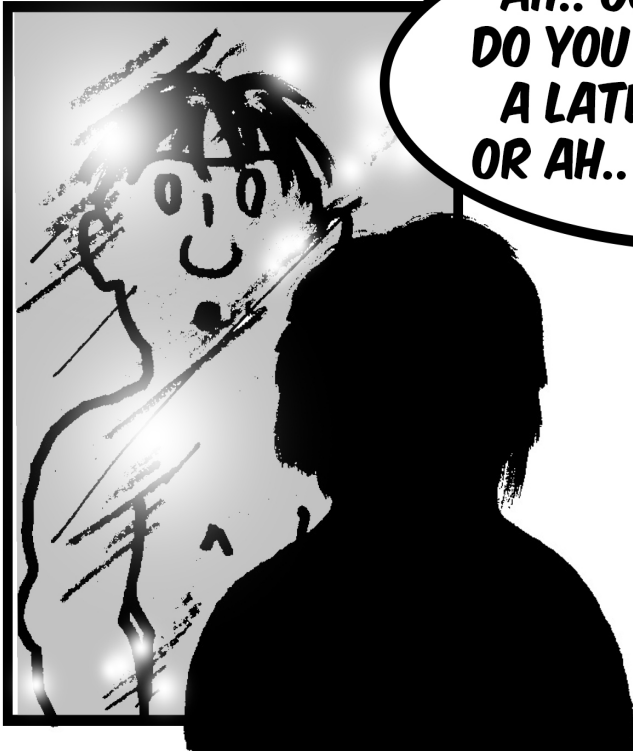
**THE NEXT DAY,**



**I SPLASHED SOME  
WATER ON MY FACE,**



**BUT IT DIDNT WAKE ME UP FROM THIS STRANGE DREAM..  
I CANT REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM LAST NIGHT,  
WHAT HAPPENED?!  
AND WHO WAS THAT  
IN THE BED?!?!**

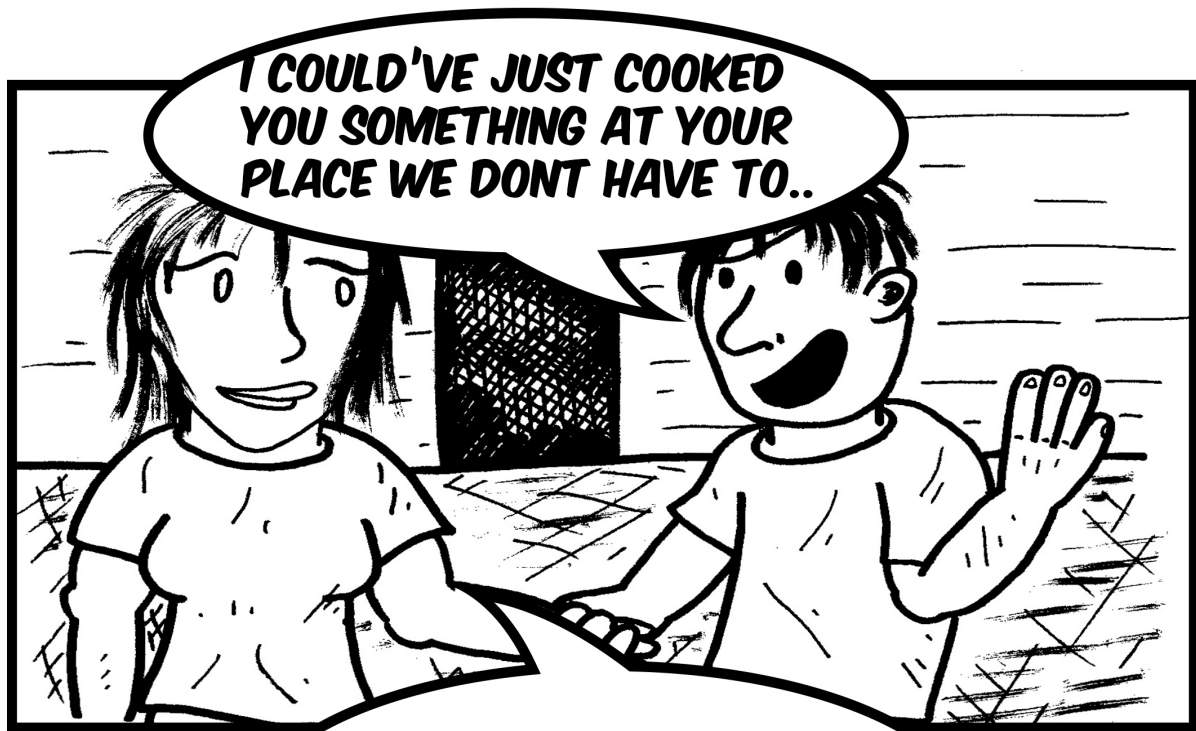


**AH.. GOOD MORNING!  
DO YOU WANNA GO GET  
A LATE BREAKFAST?  
OR AH.. LUNCH? HAHA..**



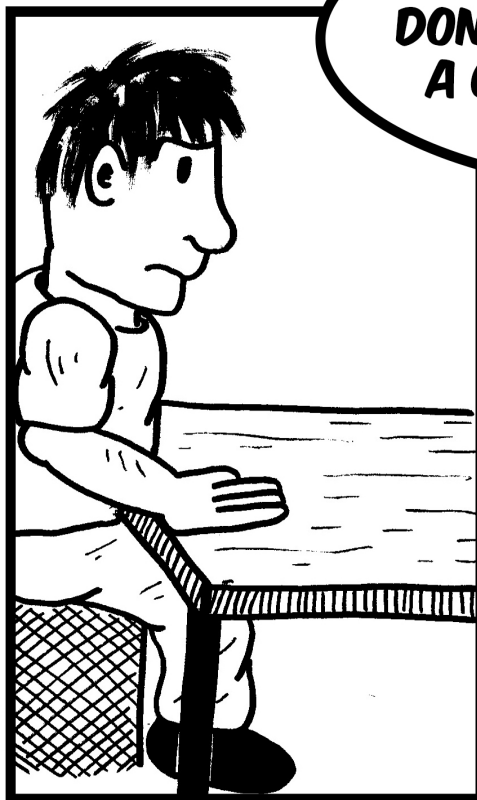
**THE WOMAN FROM CENTRELINK?!  
THIS HAS TO BE A DREAM!!**





**I COULD'VE JUST COOKED  
YOU SOMETHING AT YOUR  
PLACE WE DONT HAVE TO..**

**BUT ITS NICE GETTING OUT,  
DONT YOU THINK? THERES  
A GOOD PLACE JUST DOWN  
THE CORNER.**



**OKAY.. ARE  
YOU GUYS READY  
TO ORDER??**

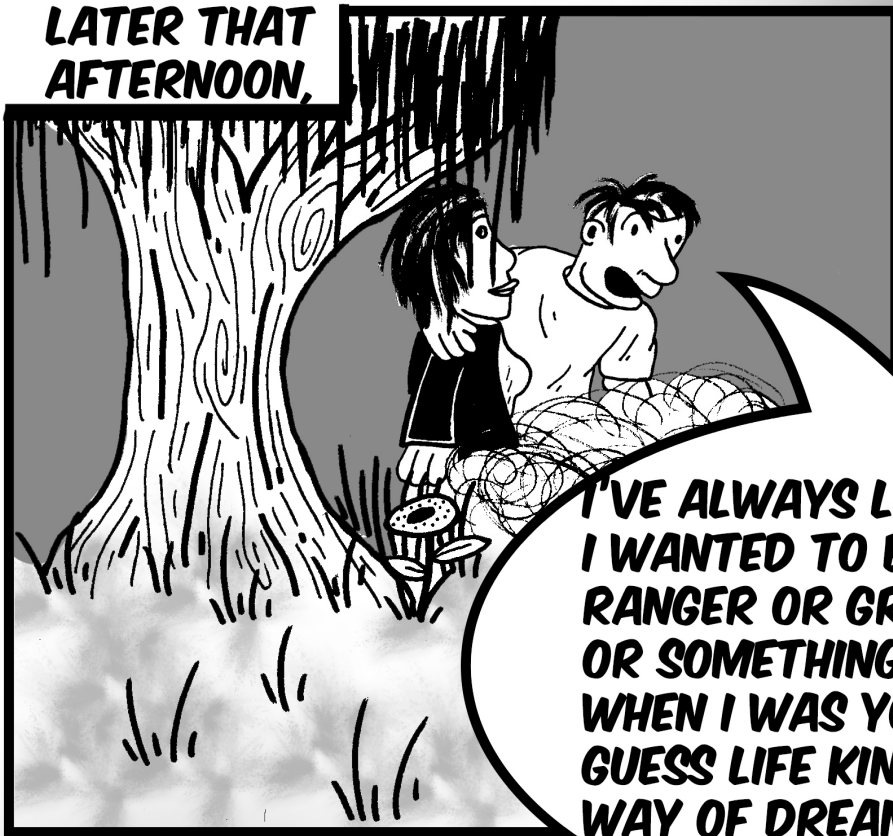


**JUST AN  
ORANGE JUICE  
THANKS, IM ON A  
DIET..**

**GREAT, SO HERE GOES  
MY LAST \$20 ON FOOD,  
WHAT AM I MENT TO  
SAY? "SORRY I CANT,  
I DONT HAVE A PENNY  
TO MY NAME AND I'LL  
BE HOMELESS SOON."**

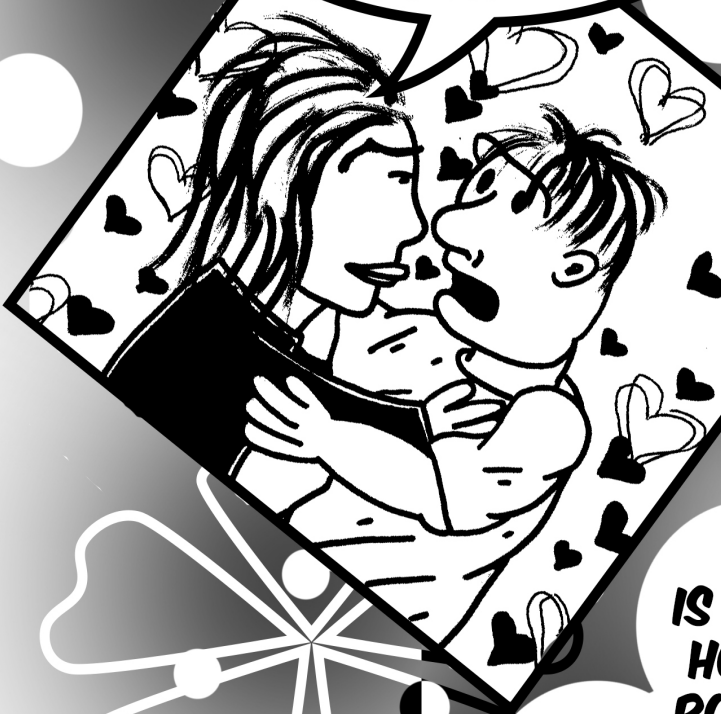


**LATER THAT  
AFTERNOON,**

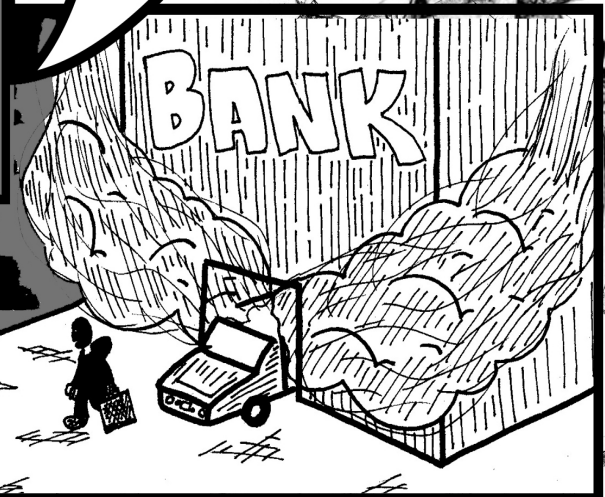
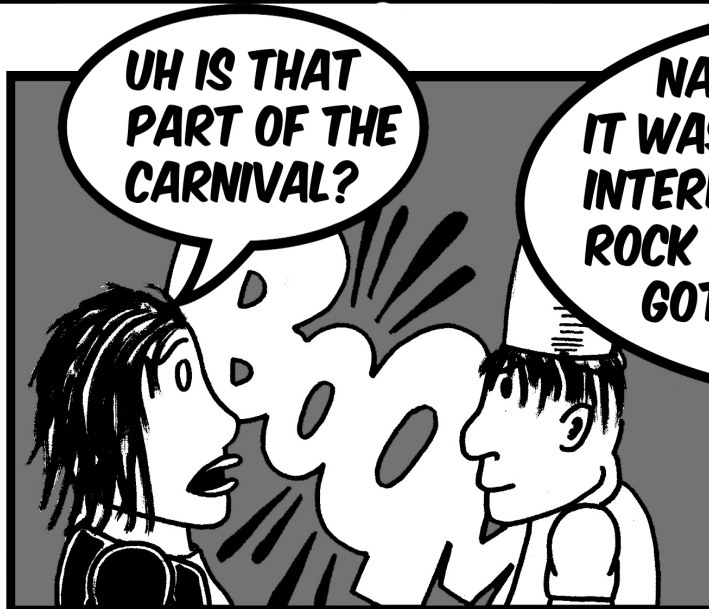
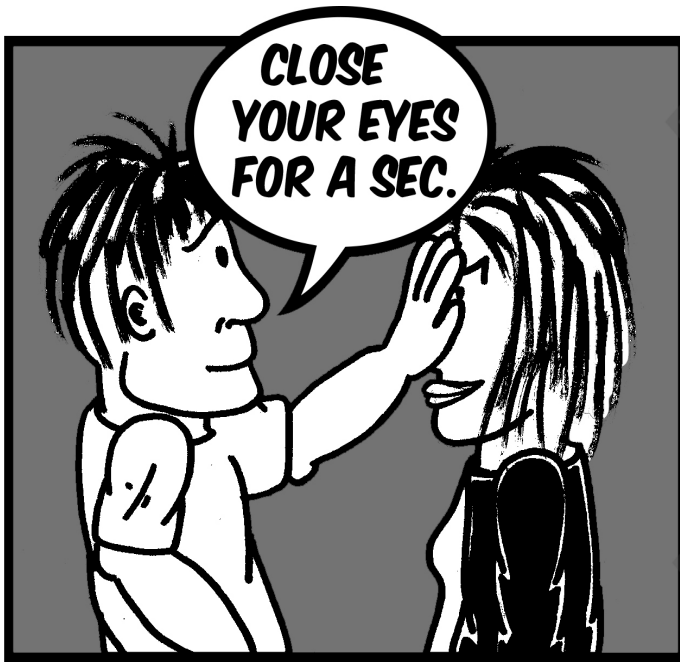


**I'VE ALWAYS LOVED NATURE,  
I WANTED TO BE A PARK  
RANGER OR GROUNDSKEEPER  
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT  
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. BUT I  
GUESS LIFE KINDA GOT IN THE  
WAY OF DREAMS LIKE THAT.**

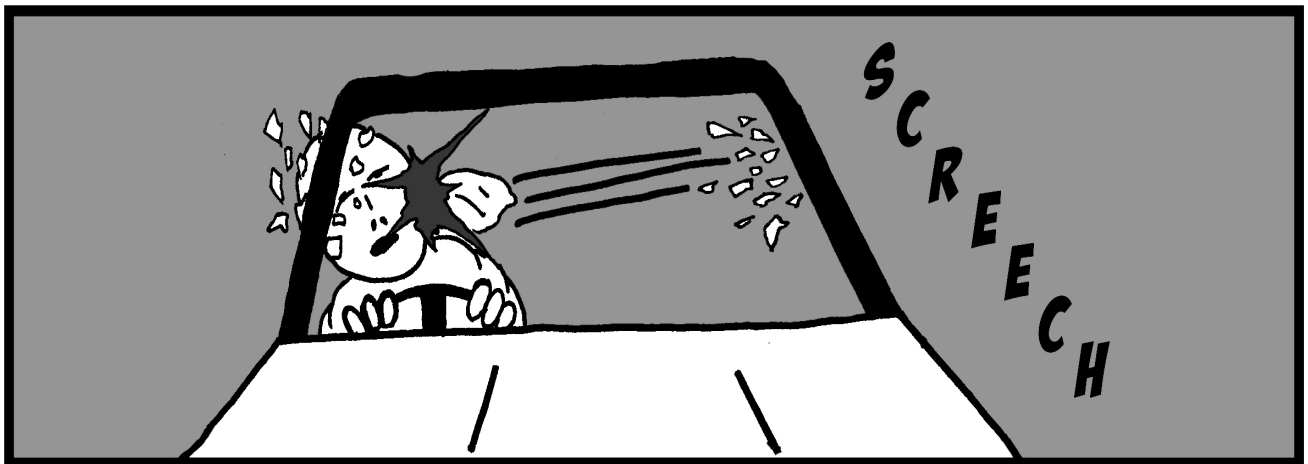
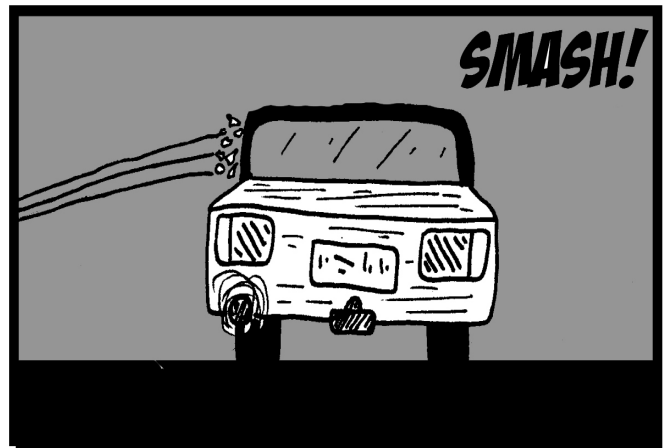
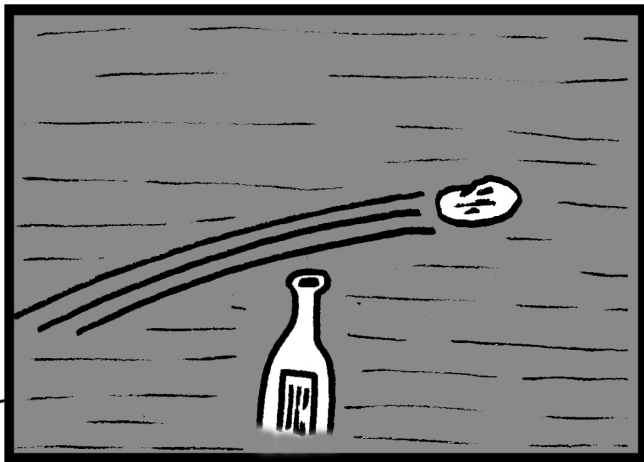
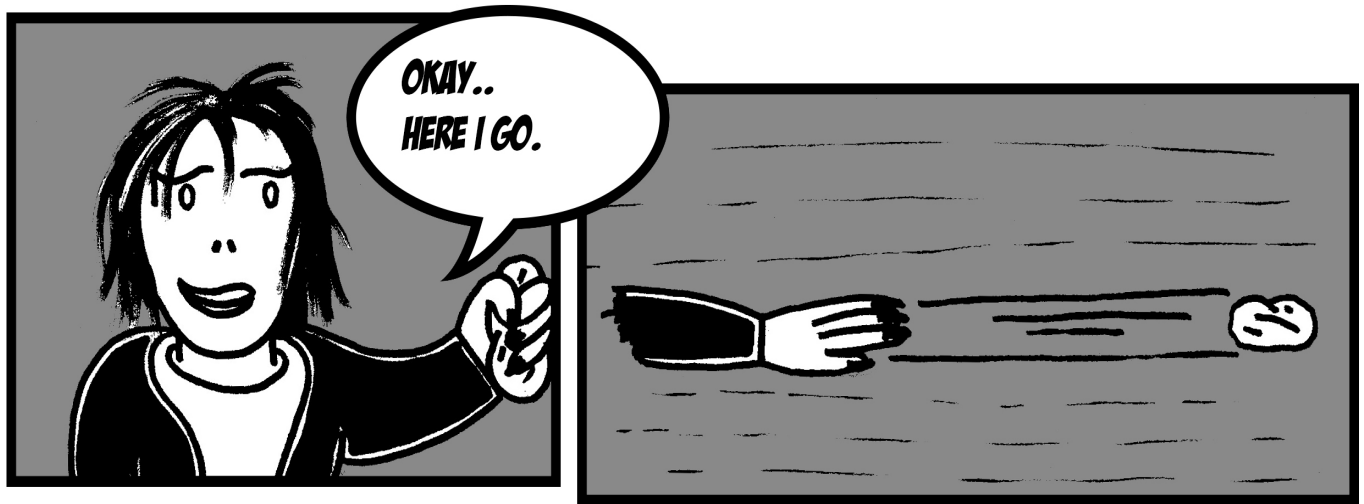
**WELL ITS NEVER TOO  
LATE TO TRY LEARN,  
IM SURE YOU COULD  
DO IT!**

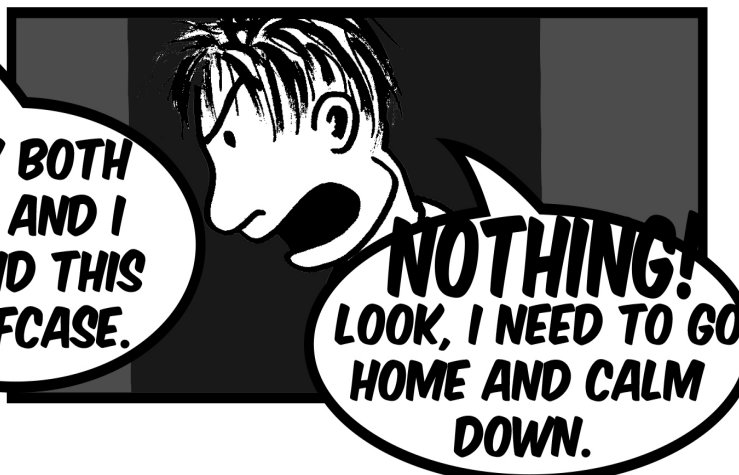
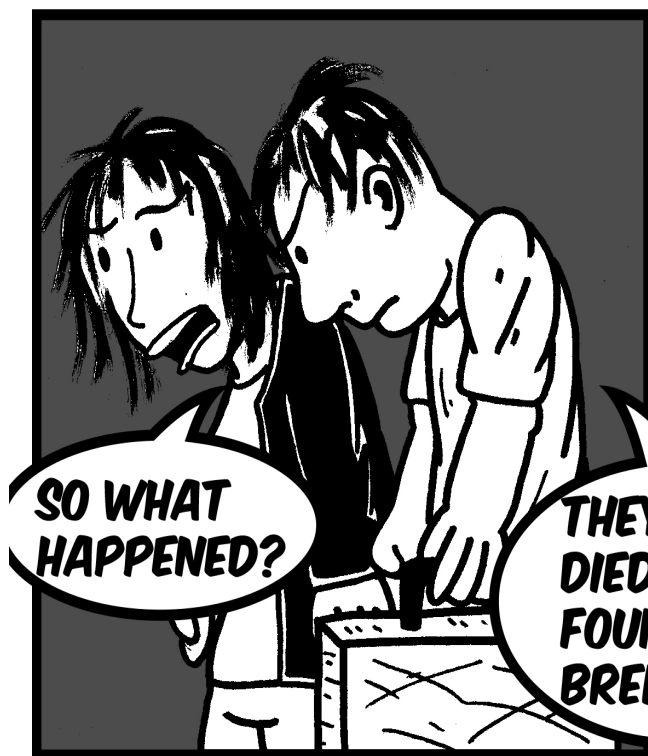
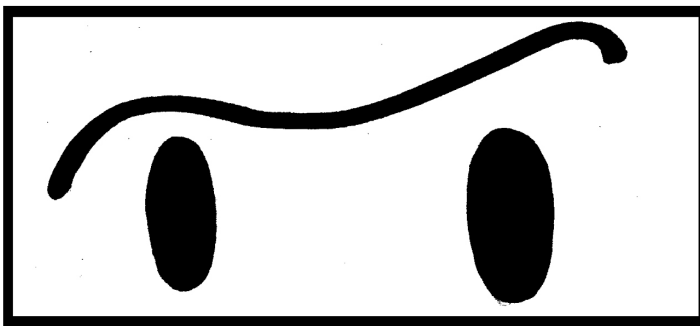
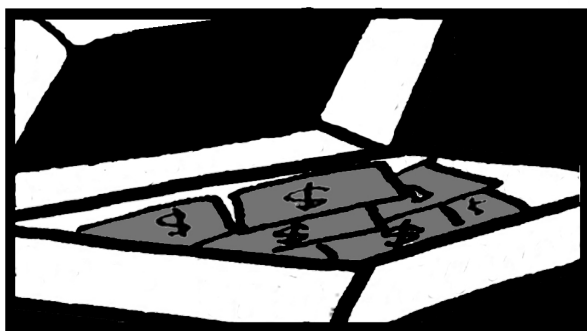


**IS SHE IN LOVE WITH ME NOW?  
HOW COULD SHE SAY SUCH  
ROMANTIC THINGS ON OUR FIRST  
PROPER DATE?!**









# **INTERVIEW: ALEX SMITH**

**WHAT WAS THE FIRST COMIC THAT GAINED YOUR INTEREST?**

**I BOUGHT SPAWN #11 FROM A FRIEND IN SECONDARY SCHOOL. THE ISSUE WAS WRITTEN BY FRANK MILLER, AND WAS ULTRA VIOLENT (SPAWN TELEPORTED INTO HIS OPPONENTS BODY - YUCK)! I DECIDED TO START PICKING-UP THE BOOK AT MY LOCAL COMIC SHOP (FANTASTIC STORE IN BRIGHTON, ENGLAND - LONG SINCE CLOSED). THE NEW ISSUE OF SPAWN WAS #29, MEANING I HAD A FAIR FEW BACK-ISSUES TO PICK-UP.**

**SPAWN #29 WAS A SELF-CONTAINED STORY, FOCUSING ON TWO YOUNG BOYS AND THEIR ABUSIVE FATHER. THE STORY ITSELF WAS PRETTY HEAVY-GOING, BUT THE ENDING WAS TRULY SHOCKING. BASICALLY EVERYTHING SPAWN HAD ENDEAVOURED TO DO TO HELP THE TWO YOUNG BOYS HAD BEEN UNDONE BY THEIR MORALLY CORRUPT FATHER. DESPITE THE SHOCK VALUE AND INCLUSION OF THE ELEMENTAL SPAWN, THE STORY SEEMED VERY REAL - AND CONTINUES TO BE MY FAVOURITE EVER SINGLE ISSUE, COMIC-BOOK.**

**WHO INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE COMICS?**

**I DIDN'T GET INTO COMICS UNTIL MY LATE TEENS. SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN INSPIRED BY ANY COMIC WHICH I'VE FOUND VISUALLY EXCITING OR IN SOME WAY EMOTIONAL. I HAVE BEEN INSPIRED TO CREATE COMICS BY THE CREATORS I ADMIRE SUCH AS; TODD MCFARLANE, HARVEY PEKAR, FRANK MILLER, ALAN MOORE, COSMO WHITE AND LANDO (TO NAME A FEW). I LIKE THE IDEA OF PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COMIC-BOOK MEDIUM AND I BELIEVE THESE CREATORS AND MORE HAVE DONE JUST THIS. OUTSIDE OF COMIC-BOOK CREATORS, ANYONE WHO REACTS TO MY WORK IN THE WAY**



**IN WHICH WAS INTENDED (OR OTHERWISE, FOR THAT MATTER) INSPIRES ME TO KEEP GOING - KEEP CREATING COMIC-BOOKS AND ART.**

**WHATS YOUR FAVOURITE THING YOU HAVE WORKED ON AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING COMICS?**

**I HAVE BEEN MAKING COMICS SINCE I WAS INTRODUCED TO THEM BACK IN MY LATE TEENS. I MESSED AROUND WITH THEM FOR MY OWN PLEASURE FOR A WHILE, THEN I STARTED SUBMITTING WORK TO FANZINES AND COMICS IN THE UK, SUCH AS; NUCOMIX AND ZARJAZ. A CREATORS LATEST WORK IS USUALLY THEIR FAVOURITE, AS YOU'RE FOREVER CONSIGNED TO BETTERING YOURSELF. I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE NEXT ISSUE OF SSOB STORY (#2) AND WAS VERY HAPPY WITH THE WORK I DID FOR BEN BYRNES FORTHCOMING NSEW. WITH REGARD TO OLDER WORK, I'M VERY FOND OF THE SECOND CHAPTER IN SSOB STORY #1 - THE WRITING AND ART CAME TOGETHER RATHER NICELY.**

**WHAT DO YOU FEEL HAS BEEN THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN YOUR CAREER?**

**IT'S ALWAYS A THRILL TO GET PUBLISHED AND TO SEE YOUR WORK IN PRINT. TO SELL YOUR WORK TO A TOTAL STRANGER AND TO HAVE THEM GIVE YOU POSITIVE FEEDBACK IS ALSO A REAL BOOST TO ONES CONFIDENCE. THE BIGGEST AND MOST SUBSTANTIAL LAUNCH OF A BOOK I'VE BEEN INVOLVED WITH WAS THROUGH FEC PUBLISHING - THE BOOK WAS HORROR ANTHOLOGY, FIRESIDE TALES. I WAS ONE OF A HANDFUL OF CREATORS WHO WERE LAUNCHING MATERIAL ON THE DAY. WE SIGNED BOOKS AND LATER DID A Q AND A. THE AFTERNOON/EVENING WAS HOSTED BY THE GOOD PEOPLE AT ALL STAR COMICS (AT THEIR OLD LONSDALE PREMISES). THIS WAS DEFINITELY A WATERSHED MOMENT IN MY CAREER. HOPEFULLY THERE'LL BE PLENTY MORE SIMILAR EXPERIENCES TO FOLLOW!**

## **WHO ARE AUSTRALIAN COMIC WRITERS/ARTISTS THAT YOU APPRECIATE?**

**MELBOURNE HAS A TERRIFIC COMIC-BOOK SCENE. IN THE UK MOST OF MY CONTEMPORARIES LIVED FURTHER AFIELD, MEANING WE WERE ONLY EVER SOCIALLY CONNECTED THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE. THE MELBOURNE SCENE IS VERY SOCIAL AND ALSO VERY ENCOURAGING. THERE IS A GREAT MANY TALENTED INDIVIDUALS OUT THERE AT THE MOMENT AND I WOULD SAY THE POOL OF TALENT WE HAVE MEANS EVERYONE IS FORCED TO UP THEIR GAME - AND PRODUCE SOMETHING OF SIGNIFICANCE AND QUALITY (BOTH IN TERMS OF CONTENT AND FINISHED PRODUCT). I REALLY LOVE COLIN WILSON'S WORK. ALONG WITH TOM TAYLOR I WOULD SAY HE IS THE MOST COMMERCIALY SUCCESSFUL MELBOURNE-BASED CREATOR. COMING FROM A MORE INDEPENDENT SENSIBILITY, BRUCE MUTARD IS EQUALLY AS IMPRESSIVE. BOBBY N AND TIM MOLLOY ARE VERY DIFFERENT BUT EQUALLY EXQUISITE STORY-TELLERS. BEN HUTCHINGS HAS A GREAT ILLUSTRATION STYLE, YET CONTINUES TO EXPERIMENT WITH COMIC-BOOK CONVENTIONS. I ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO MORE ISSUES OF FROGMAN BY MICHAEL WSZELAKI. ALL THE ABOVE ARE WRITER/ILLUSTRATORS (SAVE FOR WILSON). AS THIS IS SOMETHING I ASPIRE TO, IT'S PRETTY AWESOME TO BE ABLE TO CALL THEM MY CONTEMPORARIES HERE IN MELBOURNE!**

**CHECK OUT MORE OF ALEX'S STUFF AT  
[FACEBOOK.COM/ALEXSMITHARTIST/](https://www.facebook.com/ALEXSMITHARTIST/)**





**HEY MIKE,  
YEAH IM GLAD YOU  
GOT THE MONEY OKAY!  
I HAD A BIG WIN ON THE  
PONIES AND THOUGHT I'D  
PAY ALOT OF RENT IN  
ADVANCE.**

**THIS MONEY REALLY HAS SAVED  
ME ALOT OF TROUBLE, NO MORE  
RENT ISSUES, NO MORE DOLE  
OFFICE, NO MORE SALVOS FOOD..**



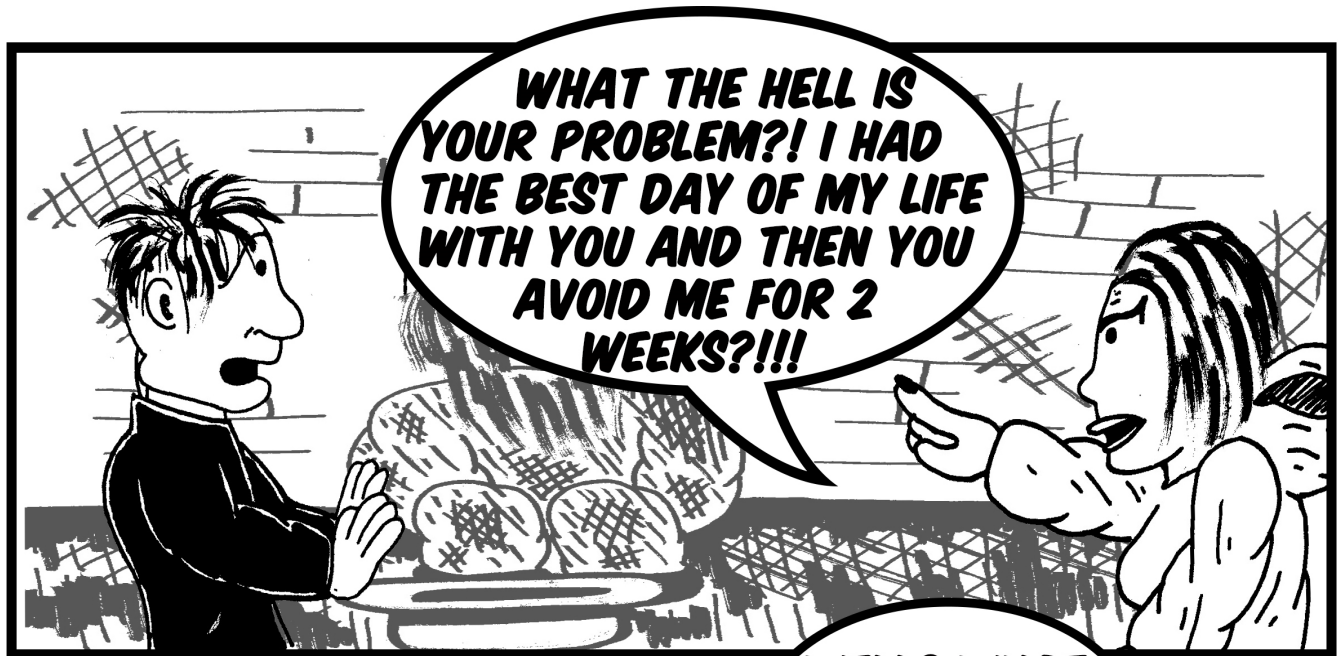
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**HEY!**









**ARGH.. WHY  
DIDNT I JUST TELL  
HER WHAT WAS  
REALLY GOING  
ON!?**



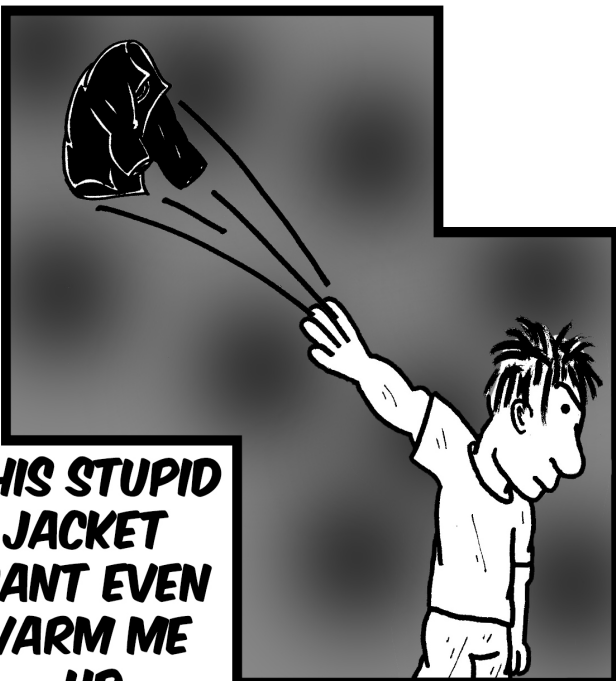
**SORRY FOR  
HAVIN' A DOMESTIC  
INFRONT OF YA MATE,  
HAVE A GOOD ONE**

**THE WORLD SEEMS SO  
DARK AND COLD NOW,**



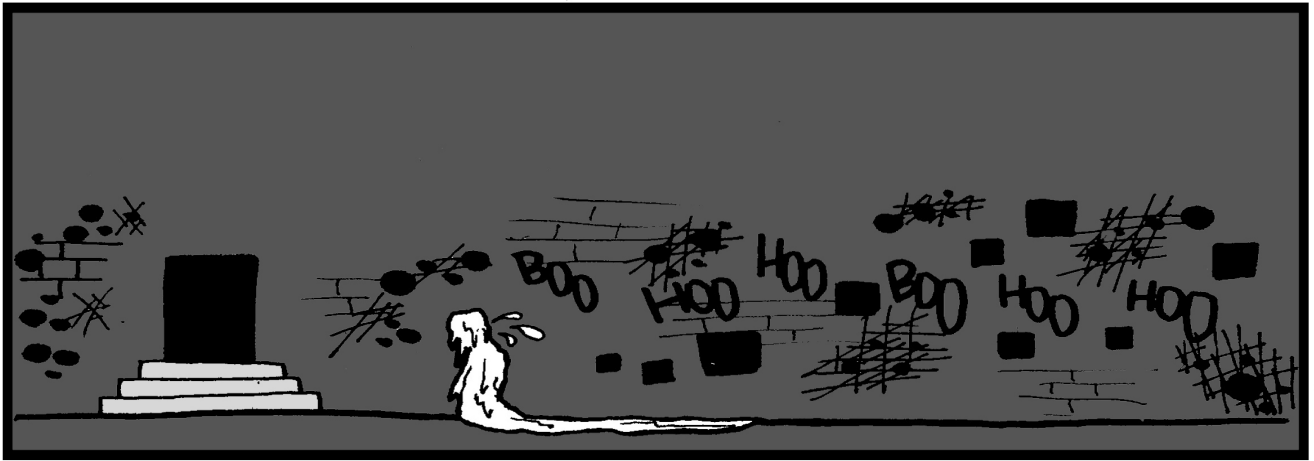
**I'M ALL ALONE  
HURDLING THROUGH  
LIFE ALONE AND I  
JUST TOLD OFF THE  
ONLY PERSON THAT  
CARES ABOUT ME.**

**ALL BECAUSE I WAS LETTING  
MY EGO TAKE CONTROL..**

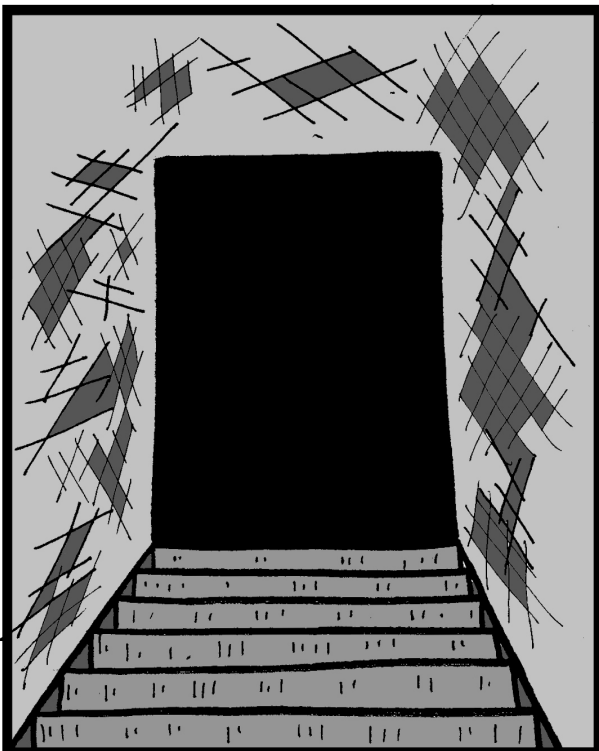


**THIS STUPID  
JACKET  
CANT EVEN  
WARM ME  
UP.**

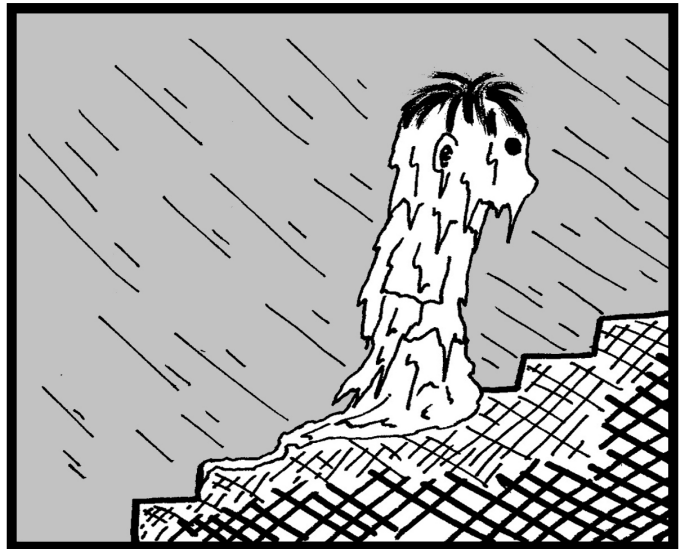




**I GUESS I'LL GO UP HERE AND  
END ALL THIS,**

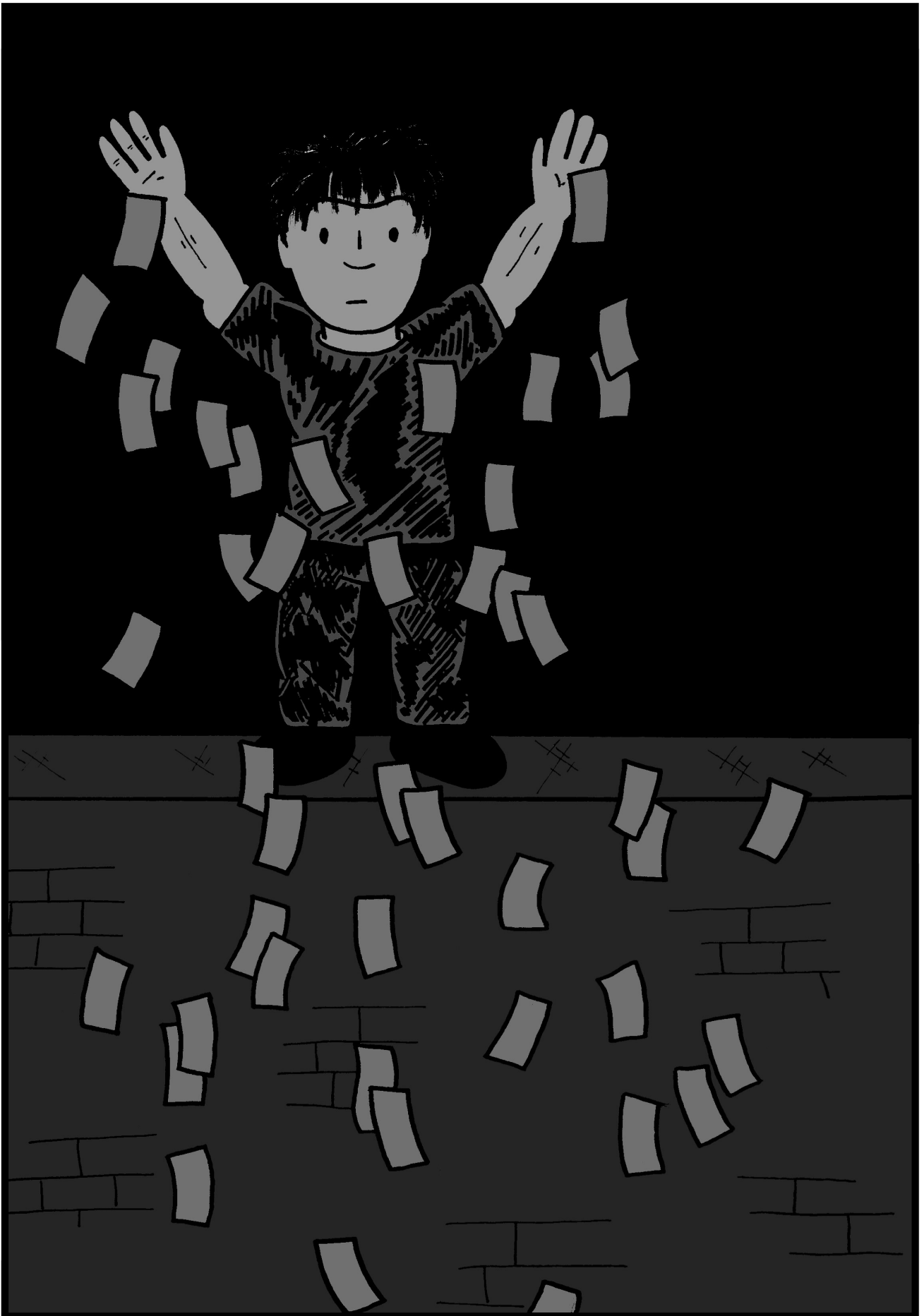


**WHO NEEDS MONEY WHEN YOU  
CAN'T EVEN BE HAPPY?**



**OKAY THIS IS IT..**

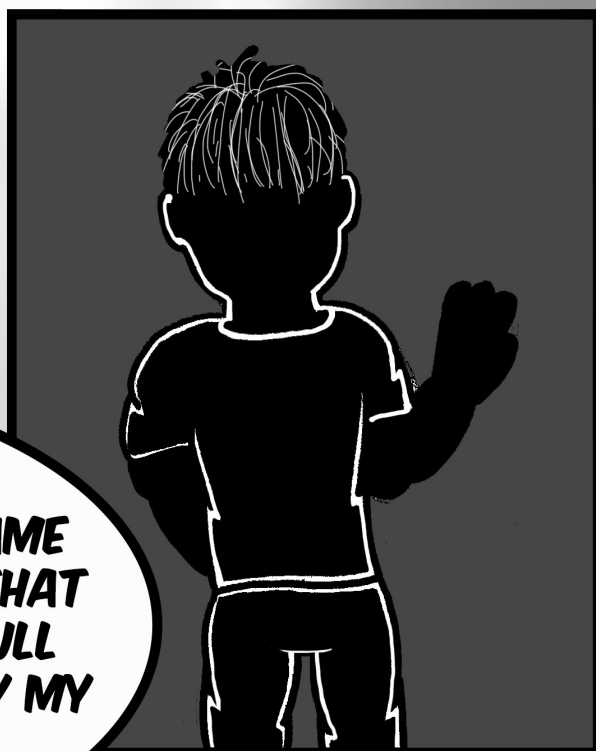




**HOPEFULLY THIS MONEY FINDS SOMEONE ELSE WHO TRUELY NEEDS IT.**



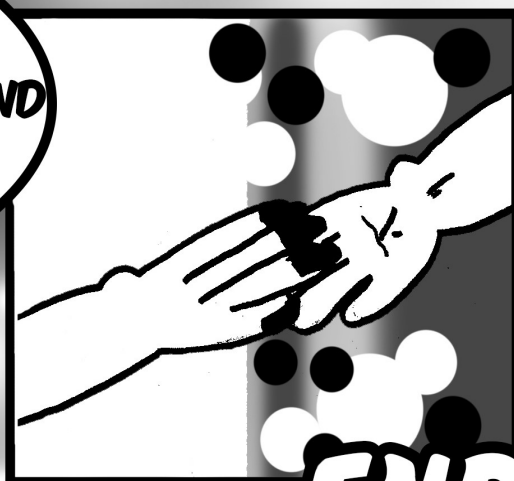
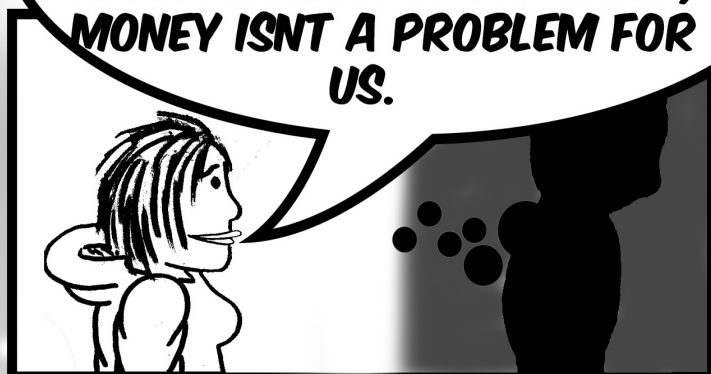
**SO THIS IS WHY YOU SPENT  
BARELY ANY MONEY ON OUR  
DATE, TO SAVE IT UP AND  
THROW IT OFF ROOFTOPS?**



**I DIDNT HAVE ANY MONEY  
THEN, AND I WAS TOO SHAME  
TO ADMIT I WAS BROKE, THAT  
BREIFCASE I STOLE WAS FULL  
OF CASH. I NEEDED TO PAY MY  
BILLS.**

**HOW DID YOU FIND ME?**

**I FOLLOWED YOU. LOOK YOU  
DONT HAVE TO DO ALL OF THIS,  
I'VE GOT A GOVERNMENT JOB AND  
AM A MEMBER OF MY UNION,  
MONEY ISNT A PROBLEM FOR  
US.**



**END.**